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## **Medicare Extends Enrollment Period for Those Affected by Sandy**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has extended the Medicare enrollment period for beneficiaries impacted by Hurricane Sandy. After the midnight December 7 deadline, beneficiaries can call Medicare's 24-hour information line, 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). CMS representatives will be able to review available plans and complete the enrollment process over the phone.

To get answers to frequently asked questions, go to

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CMS-Sandy-delay-letter.pdf>

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## **New LIHEAP Funds Now Available**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced the availability of \$3.068 billion in FY 2013 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant funds under the current Continuing Resolution (CR), which runs through March 27, 2013. This represents 90 percent of the full year funds for states, tribes and territories -- a higher proportion than is typically made available in the initial allocation. The funds give the states more certainty to plan for their upcoming heating season while allowing Congress flexibility in setting its final funding level for the program, as required by the CR.

For more information, applicants should:

- Call the LIHEAP toll-free telephone number at: 1-866-674-6327,

- Send an e-mail to: [energy@ncat.org](mailto:energy@ncat.org), or
- Contact their [state's LIHEAP office](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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### DOJ Funding Opportunity

The Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) is pleased to announce the following funding opportunity.

*Court Training and Improvements Program: Domestic Violence Mentor Court Initiative Call for Concept Papers*

The OVW Court Training and Improvements Program: Domestic Violence Mentor Court Initiative Call for Concept Papers is open and accepting applications on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

The purpose of this initiative is to identify successful adaptations of domestic violence court models and link them to other jurisdictions striving to improve their processes for handling domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases. The Mentor Court Initiative will also serve as a clearinghouse for sharing best practices and procedures, and disseminating strategies and solutions for replication. OVW, in collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation, will conduct on-site assessments and select up to six Mentor Court sites.

More information can be found here: Court Training and Improvements Program: DV Mentor Court Initiative <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/fy2013-mentor-court-solicitation.pdf>

Application Deadline: December 7, 2012

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## Stay Informed

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## **Webinar for Legal Professionals: Working with People with Dementia and Assessing Client Capacity**

This webinar is the first in the four part Legal Resources and Alzheimer's Webinar Series. The webinar series will cover legal issues of people with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and their caregivers. Persons with Alzheimer's disease are particularly vulnerable to financial exploitation, physical or emotional abuse, and neglect both at home and in care facilities. These webinars, as outlined in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, will help ensure that people with AD have their dignity, safety, and rights maintained.

This webinar aims to provide continuing education to develop dementia capable legal professionals. It is open to any legal professional.

Participants will:

- Be able to identify dementia capable legal services
- Understand the essentials of care planning
- Learn about counseling clients with dementia
- Be knowledgeable about capacity assessment basics
- Receive strategies for referrals for further assessment
- Become aware of best practices for attorneys

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Register at: <https://aoa-events.webex.com>

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## **Webinar on Caregiving and Parkinson's**

Providing care to a loved one with Parkinson's can be a difficult and challenging job, but there are places to turn for help and ways to help yourself. Most importantly you are not alone.

The Parkinson's Disease Foundation invites you to participate in its third annual "Caregiving and Parkinson's Disease" *PD Expert Briefing*.

Goals for participants:

- Identify common challenges faced by Parkinson's family care partners.
- Identify your own warning signs of stress.
- Identify strategies to relieve strain and prevent the detrimental impact of long term caregiving.

Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2012  
Time: 1:00 p.m. EST

To register, go to  
<http://event.netbriefings.com/event/pdeb/Live/caregiving/register.html>

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### **Webinar on Strategies to Help with Tough Issues: Driving, Bathing, and Managing Meds**

Sponsored by the American Society on Aging, this webinar will discuss typical caregiver behavior by people with dementia related to driving, bathing and medication management.

Participants will learn techniques that are helpful in promoting interactions and desired activity or conversation; including how you talk, what you say and how to respond.

Date: November 26, 2012  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time

To register, go to <http://asaging.org/november-26-2012>

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### **Webinar on Addressing Domestic Violence in Home Visitation Settings: Screening, Assessment & Safety Planning**

This webinar is co-sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Women's Health, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program and Futures Without Violence

The new federal benchmarks for home visitation require that programs document screening, and track referrals. We know that many home visitation programs are continuing to prioritize domestic violence screening, referral, and building partnerships with local domestic violence programs. Home visitors have a unique opportunity to improve positive outcomes for their families by building partnerships and learning more about tools, and assessment strategies for integrating screening for domestic violence.

This webinar will help home visitors understand how to screen, refer and document these activities as part of routine programming.

Agenda:

Brief overview of Healthy Moms/Happy Babies curriculum.

Successes/challenges for domestic violence assessment with clients.

How to discuss limits of confidentiality prior to screening clients for domestic violence.

How to use the safety card and the evidenced based “Relationship Assessment Tool” to screen clients for domestic violence.

Action steps in a safety plan that a client can take if she feels unsafe.

Date: Monday, November 19, 2012

Time: 2:00-3:30 P.M. Eastern Time

Register for this conference:

[http://bwjp.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/register.pl?activity\\_id=zshwhmp&user\\_id=](http://bwjp.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/register.pl?activity_id=zshwhmp&user_id=)

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Primary Dial-In: 1-888-447-7153

Alternate Dial-In: 1-719-387-1138

Passcode: 469456

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## **Tools & Information**

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### **National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services (NRCPDS)**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) funds a number of resource centers designed to provide information to consumers and technical assistance to professionals on a variety of topics. The National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services, established in April 2009 and formerly the Cash and Counseling Program Office, provides research and technical assistance on increasing choice and control in long term services and supports systems to enable people with disabilities across the lifespan to live independently in the community. NRCPDS receives funds from a number of agencies and organizations including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation/HHS, the Veterans Administration (VA), and the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

ACL began working with the NRCPDS in the late 1990s to assist aging and disability agencies to develop cash and counseling participant directed programs. In 2008, ACL and NRCPDS partnered with the Veterans Health Administration to develop and implement a nationwide Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) program. The VD-HCBS program, with 92 program sites developed since 2008, is currently the main vehicle ACL

is using to expand the capacity of the Aging and Disability networks to offer LTSS participant direction models to non-Medicaid populations.

Information about the National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services can be found on their website at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/nrcpds>. This site includes resources for developing VD-HCBS programs (<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gssw/nrcpds/help/programedev/vd-hcbs.html>). To learn about a new opportunity for aging and disability network agencies to expand services to veterans go to the ACL website: <http://www.hhs.gov/acl/2012/09/11/special-opportunity-to-expand-hcbs-access-for-veterans/>

If you would like to know more about the Resource Centers that the ACL funds, you can find information at:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource\\_Centers/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource_Centers/Index.aspx). Future newsletters will be featuring the other resource centers.

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### **AoA's November Widget Observes Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month**

November is Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and AoA's November widget offers data on the number of people caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease in the U.S. You'll also learn how AoA supports programs that help people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. You can view AoA's statistics widget and other widgets at

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx).

AoA's social media also offers engaging e-cards with tips on healthy eating, exercising and volunteering. You can view all of AoA's e-cards and select an e-card for a friend at

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx).

AoA's e-greetings have attractive images and provide helpful tips on how to stay healthy.

Follow AoA on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube! You can connect with AoA on Twitter by visiting [www.twitter.com/aoagov](http://www.twitter.com/aoagov). AoA is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aoa.gov](http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov) and our YouTube channel is online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AoA25>. Also, recently AoA became a part of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and has launched an ACL Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/aclgov](http://www.twitter.com/aclgov). Please click the "Like" button for us on Facebook, check our tweets on the AoA and ACL Twitter pages, and view and share our videos on YouTube.

Do you have questions or comments about AoA's social media? Feel free to send them to [Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov).

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## **A Conversation on Rural Health**

Highlighted in the November 7 issue of *Healthcare Innovation Exchange* is an interview with Brock Slabach, Senior Vice President for Member Services at the National Rural Health Association. To read the article, "Challenges Facing Rural Health Care," go to

[http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/content.aspx?id=3752&utm\\_source=issueanc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20121107](http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/content.aspx?id=3752&utm_source=issueanc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20121107)

*Healthcare Innovation Exchange* is published by the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

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## **Do You Have Your HHS Apps?**

The Department of Health and Human Services has a total of 25 health-related Apps. The Apps are available on iPhones, Androids, iPod Touches, iPad, Blackberries, Blackberry tablets, Android tablets, Palm OS/web OS and Windows Mobile. To learn about them and to download those that can help you track your health, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/digitalstrategy/mobile/index.html>

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## **SSI: Forty Years of Helping People in Need**

The Social Security Amendments of 1972 created a new federal benefit program. Last month, that program — the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program — celebrates its 40th anniversary. Administered by Social Security, SSI is a needs-based program for people 65 or older, blind, or disabled who have limited income and resources.

To learn more about SSI, read the online publication, *You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)* at

[www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html) or visit the SSI page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi)

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## Recent Reports

*Leisure Time Physical Activity of Moderate to Vigorous Intensity and Mortality: A Large Pooled Cohort Analysis*

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001335>

Source: PLoS Medicine

Date: November 2012

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